

***What Is Claimed Is:***

1. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle, comprising:

5 a first driving unit integrally provided with a first HST connected with a prime mover and a pair of left and right first differential output shafts driven by said first HST, wherein said first driving unit is attached to a vehicle chassis;

10 a second driving unit integrally provided with a second HST connected with said prime mover and a pair of left and right second differential output shafts driven by said second HST, wherein said second driving unit is attached to said vehicle chassis;

a drive train drivingly connecting said left first output shaft and said left second output shaft with each other, and

15 a drive train drivingly connecting said right first output shaft and said right second output shaft with each other, wherein one of said first and second differential output shafts connected by one of said two drive trains are rotated in the same direction and the other of said first and second differential output shafts connected by the other of said drive trains are rotated in opposite directions.

20 2. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second driving unit is juxtaposed in either front or rear of said first driving unit.

3. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a output regulating member of said first HST connected with a speed changing operating tool provided on said vehicle.

4. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 3, wherein said speed changing operating tool is a foot pedal.

5. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 3, wherein said output regulating member of said first HST is connected with said speed changing operating tool by a speed control linkage disposed below an operator's deck.

6. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a output regulating member of said second HST connected with a steering operating tool provided on said vehicle.

7. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 6, wherein said steering operating tool is a steering wheel.

8. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 6, wherein said output regulating member of said second HST is connected with said steering operating tool by a steering control linkage disposed below an operator's deck.

9. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

driving wheels attached respectively to said left and right first differential output shafts.

10. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 9, wherein said vehicle chassis is provided at the longitudinally opposite portion thereof to said driving wheels with at least one caster wheel.

11. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

an output shaft of said prime mover interposed between an input shaft of said first HST and an input shaft of said second HST.

5 12. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 11, further comprising:

pulleys fixed respectively onto said input shafts of said first and second HSTs and said output shaft of said prime mover, wherein said pulleys are bound with a single belt for power transmission.

10 13. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 12, wherein said prime mover is an engine provided with a crankshaft having a vertical rotational axis.

14. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 1, wherein said vehicle has a cutting deck.

15 15. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle, comprising:

a first HST connected with a prime mover;

a first differential gear unit separated from said first HST and drivingly connected with said first HST, wherein said first differential gear unit is provided with a pair of left and right first differential output shafts;

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a second HST connected with said prime mover;

a second differential gear unit separated from said second HST and drivingly connected with said second HST, where in said second differential gear unit is provided with a pair of left and right second differential output shafts;

25 a drive train drivingly connecting said left first output shaft and said left second output shaft with each other, and

5 a drive train drivingly connecting said right first output shaft and said right second output shaft with each other, wherein said first and second differential output shafts connected by one of said two drive trains are rotated in the same direction and the other first and second differential output shafts connected by the other of said drive trains are rotated in the opposite directions.

16. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

a output regulating member of said first HST connected with a speed changing operating tool provided on said vehicle.

10 17. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 16, wherein said speed changing operating tool is a foot pedal.

15 18. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 16, wherein said output regulating member of said first HST is connected with said speed changing operating tool by a speed control linkage disposed below an operator's deck.

19. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

20 a output regulating member of said second HST connected with a steering operating tool provided on said vehicle.

20. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 19, wherein said steering operating tool is a steering wheel.

21. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 19, wherein said output regulating member of said second

HST is connected with said steering operating tool by a steering control linkage disposed below an operator's deck.

22. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

5 driving wheels attached respectively to said first differential output shafts.

23. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 22, wherein said vehicle chassis is provided at the longitudinally opposite portion thereof to said driving wheels with at least one caster wheel.

10 24. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

an output shaft of said prime mover interposed between an input shaft of said first HST and an input shaft of said second HST.

15 25. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 24, further comprising:

pulleys fixed respectively onto said input shafts of said first and second HSTs and said output shaft of said prime mover, wherein said pulleys are bound with a single belt for power transmission.

20 26. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 25, wherein said prime mover is an engine provided with a crankshaft having a vertical rotational axis.

27. A driving apparatus for speed changing and steering of a vehicle as set forth in claim 15, wherein said vehicle has a cutting deck.